1880MNRAS..40O..199.

Charles Judd was born at Edmonton on March 23, 1826, and was educated at the Edmonton Grammar School, then called Latymer's School. At the age of 16 he went to the Westminster Training College. Upon resigning an appointment which he had obtained in the Rev. Mr. Bertie's school at Ilford, he became the head master of the "Yellow School," at Cirencester. Here he laboured assiduously for some years, undertaking, in addition to his ordinary work, the delivery of public lectures on Astronomy, Physical Geography, and other branches of science. In 1854 he resigned this appointment, and became an assistant master in Denmark Hill Grammar School. In 1858, after a brief interval, in which he was connected with Stockton Grammar School, he was elected second master of the Foundation School, Whitechapel, and about ten years subsequently became head master. This post he retained until his death, which took place after a short illness at Freiburg, Baden, to which place he had gone to recruit his strength during the autumn vacation. Mr. Judd was a member of the Numismatic Society, an Associate of King's College, a Fellow of the Geological Society, and had been for some years a member of the Council of the College of Preceptors. He was also for several years an active member on the London Committee for the Oxford Local Examinations. He leaves a widow and four children. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on June 14, 1867.

Henry Cooper Key, M.A., was the eldest son of the celebrated surgeon, C. Aston Key, of Guy's Hospital. He was born in 1819, and educated at private schools, and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took his degree in 1842. He early showed a taste for astronomy, and while quite a boy constructed a telescope. After being four years in orders, he was presented by Guy's Hospital to the living of Stretton Sugwas, in Herefordshire: the parish being very small, he had leisure for scientific pursuits.

In 1859 he began his attempts to grind glass mirrors for Newtonian reflectors, then a most difficult task, the process having been almost lost; but after some years' persevering efforts, in co-operation with Mr. George With, of Hereford, he succeeded in inventing a method by which great accuracy of figure could be obtained.

After making several mirrors of increasing diameters, he attained the object of his ambition, a speculum of 18 inches diameter and 11 feet focus. On achieving this success, he discontinued the mechanical work of mirror-making, and used his splendid instrument in observing. Its great light-collecting power and admirable definition rendered it especially suitable for studying faint objects. He discovered the remarkable depression in the Moon's surface which has been named after him, and contributed observations of comets, nebulæ, &c. to the *Monthly Notices* at intervals. He was much interested in other branches of science, such as ancient chronology, geological periods, the tidal wave in the Medi-

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1880MNRAS..40..200.

terranean, &c., and was engaged in the last weeks of his life in observing the periodical earth-vibrations noticed by Plantamour and D'Abbadie, which he expected would have thrown light on obscure geological and meteorological questions. From careful observations made with accurate instruments, he believed that, the elements from which a law might be deduced had been obtained.

After a short illness, he died on December 25, 1879, aged 60. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on November 9, 1860. His paper "On a mode of figuring glass specula for the Newtonian telescope" appeared in vol. xx., pp. 199–202, of the *Monthly Notices*, and that "On certain depressions on the Moon's western limb" in vol. xxiv., pp. 20–23.

Sir THOMAS MACLEAR, formerly Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope, was the eldest son of James Maclear of Newton Stewart, Tyrone, Ireland. He was born on March 17, 1794, and died at his residence, Grey Villa, Mowbray, Cape of Good Hope, on July 14, 1879. His early childhood gave promise of the talents that distinguished the future man, and his proficiency in Latin when only seven years old caused his father to wish him to enter the Church. An attempted coercion in this matter ended finally in a breach between father and son; the funds required for his education as a medical man were placed in the hands of friends, and he was dismissed to England, at the age of 15, to the care of his maternal uncles, Sir George and Dr. T. Magrath, both eminent medical men.

He studied at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, and passed his examinations in all branches of his profession with high honours. Brilliant prospects were opened before him in London; but he preferred a quieter life, where he could follow with more advantage his mathematical and astronomical studies, which already were becoming to him a necessity of life. He was accordingly elected house-surgeon of the Bedford Infirmary, where, in the congenial society of Admiral Smyth and others, he combined with the practice of his profession a gradually increasing study of astronomy.

In 1823 he moved to Biggleswade, where he practised his profession; and in 1825 he married Mary, third daughter of Mr. Theed Pearse, for many years clerk of the peace of the county of Bedford. His astronomical pursuits daily absorbed him more and more, and he built a little observatory in his garden, in which he spent every moment he could spare.

In 1833 he was appointed Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope. He reached his new sphere of labour on January 5, 1834, and took up his residence at the then desolate-looking Observatory.

Ten days afterwards Sir John Herschel arrived at the Cape, and the next four years were spent in happy mutual intercourse

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